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DIA FOR IR BRANCH; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, BL, US, (KENNEDY, EDWARD M.),
(BARNES, MICHAEL)
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL MESSAGES ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF
BOLIVIA'S REVOLUTION

1. THE BOLIVIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THE RECEIPT OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BARNES ON THE OCCASION OF THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF BOLIVIA'S 1952 REVOLUTION ON APRIL 9.
2. SENATOR KENNEDY'S TELEGRAM CONCENTRATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON BOLIVIA'S RECENT RETURN TO CIVILIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. HE WROTE, "IN THIS MOMENT IN WHICH THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE MILITARY SYSTEM AND THE FUTILITY OF MILITARY SOLUTIONS ARE MORE EVIDENT THAN EVER IN ALL THE HEMISPHERE, WE SEE WITH SATISFACTION THE ROAD THAT BOLIVIA HAS FOLLOWED SINCE OCTOBER 10." PRESIDENT SILES ACKNOWLEDGED SENATOR KENNEDY'S TELEGRAM SAYING THAT THE SENATOR'S "PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN MY COUNTRY HONORS YOU."
3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BARNES ALSO SENT A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM WHICH DWELLED ON THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT'S RECENT EXPULSION OF THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE TO FRANCE. CONGRESSMAN BARNES WROTE, "WE APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS EXPULSION AND THE DIFFICULT INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS DECISION WAS MADE." THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO ASSURED PRESIDENT SILES OF "THE SUPPORT OF MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN YOUR EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY IN BOLIVIA." NO BOLIVIAN REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN BARNES HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.
4. COMMENT: THESE EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIA'S FRAGILE DEMOCRATIC, CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM, AS WELL AS FOR BOLIVIA'S EXPULSION OF KLAUS BARBIE REINFORCE WHAT THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN TELLING THE

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GOB. ATTORNEY GENERAL SMITH WHO VISITED HERE JUST
AFTER THE APRIL 9TH CELEBRATIONS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE BOLIVIANS ON
THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND ON THE RETURN TO
DEMOCRACY. DRAFTED BY DAVID G. WAGNER. CORR
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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